

DOUBLE CANYON

HORSE HEAVEN HILLS, WASHINGTON STATE ABOUT US



OUR STORY

There are few places in the world capable of producing truly remarkable wine. Despite all we've learned of viticulture over the centuries, it is still largely the whim of nature and fate of geological events that unfolded long ago that dictate where this rare and special terroir is located. Our job then is to seek out parcels of land that present an opportunity to cultivate great wines. In 2007, we did just that, when we founded Double Canyon. From that moment, our focus has been crafting exceptional Washington Cabernet Sauvignon from pedigreed vineyard sites, anchored by our namesake Double Canyon Vineyard in Horse Heaven Hills.

For the past 50 years, Horse Heaven Hills has produced some of the most revered fruit in Washington. Our 90-acre Double Canyon Vineyard, named for two ravines that run through the property, was selected for its desirable location and proximity to the Columbia River. Influenced by volcanic activity, ancient glacial deposits, desert soils, and a persistent wind that blows off the river, Double Canyon wines capture the distinctive character of this renowned appellation.

OUR WINERY

Double Canyon broke ground on a new winemaking facility in West Richland, Washington during the summer of 2016 and is opening its doors for harvest 2017. When it came to building a home for our wines, we took a studied, philosophical approach. In pursuit of making great Cabernet Sauvignon, we brought together a small team of experts with more than 175 years of combined winemaking and production experience to draw on this depth of knowledge and collaborate on the design of a best-in-class facility. Technologically advanced and designed for top-level craftsmanship, the new Double Canyon winery allows us to control every aspect of winemaking. Armed with new tools to automate processes such as temperature-control and pumps-overs, we'll be able to achieve an even higher level of precision, efficiency and quality.

Production capacity of Double Canyon's winery will begin at 50,000 cases with the opportunity to scale in the future. Located in close proximity to our vineyards in the Horse Heaven Hills, the building is also central to amenities in the greater Tri Cities area as well as Washington State University's new wine research facility.

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OF THE DISTINCTIVE WINDSWEPT, DESERT REGION OF HORSE HEAVEN HILLS

DOUBLE CANYON

HORSE HEAVEN HILLS, WASHINGTON STATE THE LAND



HORSE HEAVEN HILLS

Located along the Columbia River, west of Walla Walla, Horse Heaven Hills occupies an expanse that spans 50 miles long and 20 miles wide. Characterized by a dry desert landscape, the area is set apart by winds that blow continuously across the vineyards. These winds naturally reduce the vine canopy size for better ripening, while the drying effect protects against mildew and other diseases. From this relatively large appellation, Double Canyon focuses its efforts around the community of Alderdale, the area we consider capable of the highest quality. For our Horse Heaven Hills wines, we exclusively source fruit within a focused, 5-mile radius, which includes our estate Double Canyon Vineyard, the acclaimed Champoux Vineyard, Phinny Hill, Destiny Ridge and Alder Ridge Vineyard.

As one of Washington's warmest appellations, proximity to the Columbia River moderates temperatures and provides a consistent source of water to irrigate the vines. Horse Heaven Hills experiences diurnal shifts between extended sunlight (around 17 hours of light each day) and cool evenings, which helps the fruit develop optimal phenolic ripeness and balanced acidity. Elevations range from 300 to 1,800 feet above sea level.

Another unique characteristic that defines this region is the wind-blown loess soils that sit atop a basalt base, which is the result of huge lava flows millennia ago. Nutrient-poor and free-draining, the soils of Horse Heaven Hills produce wines with distinct mineral nuances — a defining characteristic of our wines.

DOUBLE CANYON VINEYARD

Double Canyon Vineyard encompasses 90 acres of estate vines located in the heart of Horse Heaven Hills, six miles from the Columbia River. Situated roughly in the footprint of the original wheat crop circles that preceded the vines, the vineyard is planted densely at about 1,850 plants per acre—double the norm in Washington—in order to crowd the space and achieve less fruit per plant. Producing less fruit increases overall quality, as all of the plant's resources are concentrated into fewer clusters.

Long sunny days set in contrast to cool evening temperatures create optimal conditions for the diverse clonal selections of Bordeaux varietals that grow here. The vineyard is primarily planted to a range of different Cabernet Sauvignon clones that have been selected for the characteristics they have displayed from our site over the past decade of winegrowing.

One of the striking features of Double Canyon Vineyard is its pristine condition. Will Beightol, our General Manager and Winegrower, has been with the project since its inception. A native of the neighborhood, he oversaw the original planting of the vines in 2007 and continues to manage the vineyard using a meticulous feedback loop system. Having complete control over the estate allows us to cultivate exceptionally high quality fruit from which we create wines that capture the distinctive terroir of the appellation.